Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending and stand rejected based on by various prior art references.

Claim 1 is directed to a system that in part includes a detector to receive "a sound signal indicative of a possible target sound," a recognizer that determines "whether the sound signal is a target sound," and a control unit that causes a portion of the prompt to be replayed if the received sound signal "is other than a target sound." The system of claim 1 pauses a prompt when barge-in is detected, analyzes the barge-in to determine if it was a "target" sound (vs. some background noise or something), and then restarts the prompt if it was determined that this was a non-target sound. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

As an initial matter, it is important to recognize the distinction between analyzing sounds and recognizing speech. The former looks at the source nature of an acoustic signal, while the latter looks at extracting its language content (if any). This distinction is quite explicitly made in the Background section of the present application, which explains that the sounds received by a speech recognition system may be from a target source such as a user's input speech, or from non-target sources such as the background speech of non-users or non-speech noises. Thus, references in claim 1 to "target sound" are understood by a person of ordinary skill reading this passage to refer to the source nature of the input sound signal, not its language content.

Claasen simply does not talk about this notion of target or non-target sound, but rather just talks about subsequent steps after a barge-in is detected, including responding based on the langauge content of the barge-in as determined by speech recognition. The passages cited by the Examiner in Claasen allude to such speech recognition, but provide no suggestion whatever about determining if the sound itself was from a target source or a non-target source.

Moreover, Claasen provides no suggestion of resuming the current prompt if the barge-in was from a non-target sound. The passage at col. 11, lines 27-33 describe starting a new prompt in response to the information extracted from the barge-in, but provides no suggestion of causing a portion of the current prompt to be replayed. Similarly, the passage at col. 12, lines 27-31 that talks about continuing or restarting the current scenario does not suggest replaying a portion of the current prompt. In fact, block **230** cited in that passage is a "select scenario" block for choosing a given prompt to play. Such a block to select a given prompt to play is not the same to one of ordinary skill in the art as a teaching to replay a portion of a current prompt.

Thus, Claasen neither teaches nor suggests a system as required by claim 1. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons. Claim 11 is a computer program product claim that like claim 1 is directed to detecting and responding to barge-in by non-target sound, and therefore is allowable over Claasen for the same reasons. Claims 12-15 depend from claim 11 and are similarly allowable. Claims 16-20 are method claims allowable over Claasen for the same reasons as claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 is a system claim similarly directed to classifying barge-in as being a target sound or non-target sound, and resume playing the prompt if the sound signal is from a non-target sound. The Setlur reference cited by the Examiner, like the Claasen reference already discussed, focuses on performing speech recognition of the input sound, rather than analysis of the source nature of the sound signal to determine if it is a target sound or a non-target sound. In fact, Setlur explicitly says that his prompt will not even be interrupted in the first place by non-speech sounds such as "coughs, side conversations or other sounds." So if Setlur does not even

allow interruption of a prompt for non-target sounds, of course, he does not suggest resuming a prompt interrupted due to barge-in from non-target sounds.

Thus claim 21 is not taught or suggested by Setlur. Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and is allowable for the same reasons. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants hereby request a two month extension of time in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. A check for the amount of $450.00 is enclosed for the fee for the two month extension of time. Applicants believe that no further extension of time is required; however, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that the applicants have inadvertently overlooked the need for a further additional extension of time. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of the application, please charge deposit account number 19-4972.

Respectfully submitted,
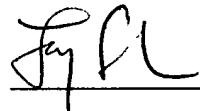
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